



EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY FOR PLURILINGUALISM



## La Lettre de l'OEP N°63 (février-mars 2016)

<http://www.observatoireplurilinguisme.eu>

Translated by Sylvie Aubert

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**Brussels 18, 19 and May 20, 2016**

### **Editorial : Is the decision of the Council of State a defeat or a victory ?**

It is customary in political life to cry victory when met with a major defeat. We are not going to follow these bad examples. We brought an action with eleven partner associations against a ministerial ruling limiting to one language only, English, the language tests in the competitive entrance exam of the National School of Administration (ENA). We did not win this case but we find in the decision of the Council of State several causes for satisfaction that should be explained.

We had invoked the article L-121-3-I of the code of education according to which “mastery of French language and knowledge of two other languages are part of the fundamental objectives of education” and had considered that the restriction to English in the language test of the competitive entrance exam of the National School of Administration contradicted the code of education. We considered, apparently wrongly, that the choice of language test had a direct link with the contents of the curriculum. Yet the Council of State answered that it has none and that the article L-121-3-I of the code of education “regarding the contents of curriculum does not apply to the contents of the competition tests”.

The Council of State adds that regarding the competition tests, “in view of the role of the English language in modern society, the introduction of English as compulsory language for the language test in the competitive entrance exam to the National School of Administration is not vitiated with manifest error of assessment”. The use by the Council of State of the expression “manifest error of assessment” is a conventional wording meaning that in some matters such as the current nature of competitive exam tests, it allows the administration some margin of appreciation, and that in this case, the administration may have made an error but this error cannot be called a manifest error.

As a matter of fact, the Council of State only repeats its rulings in a case brought by several trade union organisations in 2009 about the competitive exam of the National School of Magistrates. It must be stressed that in so doing, the Council of State does not answer at all the question raised by the OEP and its partners. Indeed, what we were attacking was not the compulsory character of the English test but the fact that it was the only language and that all ...->

Editing and writing : Christian Tremblay, Anne Bui

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-> other languages were excluded. It was not the acknowledgement of “the role of English in modern society”, but the disregard of the role of plurilingualism, as recognised by the article L-121-3-I of the code of education, that we challenged. This article, added to French legislation in 2000, anticipated the conclusions of the European Council of Barcelona in March 2002 that advocated the teaching of at least two foreign languages from an early age. Therefore, the Council of State not answering our objection, we cannot consider ourselves judged by the Council of State on this point.



But there are some hidden elements in this decision of the Council of State which are definitely positive in our view.

First of all, ENA is a professional school of further education. ...->

<p>-&gt; Secondly, the article L-121-3-I of the code of education applies to further education as well as primary education, a point that has not been contested by the ministry, this being the reason why they argued that ENA was not an institution of further education.</p> <p>Thirdly, the article L-121-3-I of the code of education concerns the contents of the curriculum. The question is, if we were to contest again, not the competition tests but the contents of the curriculum, would the Council of State be able again to abstain from judging and to use the argument of “manifest error of assessment”. The question remains of course open. Nevertheless, two points can be noted :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The article L-121-3-I of the code of education does not say “objectives of education” but “fundamental objectives of education”. In our opinion, this point should exclude the use of manifest error.</li> <li>- The competence to determine the contents of the curriculum is not the ministry’s but the institutions’ themselves under the control of the ministry of further education and research which issues the accreditations. The decisions of the institutions are therefore subject not only to the article L-121-3-I but to the whole article L-121-3 which regulates the possibility to teach in a language other than French, limiting this possibility to 50% of the same curriculum. This point cannot be contested in the light of a parliamentary debate which took place in 2013 and which is totally unambiguous on this subject.</li> </ul> <p>Therefore, in the same way that it is possible to declare illegal any curriculum taught exclusively in a foreign language, ...-&gt;</p>	<p>-&gt; it is also possible to contest a further education program proposing English as the sole foreign language. Of course, a curriculum could include no foreign language at all but if it includes the teaching of languages, except for a legitimate reason, this program cannot be limited to one foreign language only. Finally, it is important to note that, though this regretful reform of the competitive tests undeniably gives a bad signal, the ENA has not become an English-only school.</p> <p>The political and judicial fight is far from over.</p> <p>This is what can be concluded from the decision of the Council of State concerning the ENA. Of course, we would have wished the contentious decision to be annulled. But we acknowledge the rigor of reasoning of the Council of State that allows us to progress in our fight for recognition of plurilingualism that is not purely declarative but also practical. ◀</p>
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Articles not to be missed

	<p><b>Les Echos d'Yves Montenay</b> The policy of corporate anglicisation is counter-productive : good competitiveness is achieved by a good personnel management that is in French in France. The French can see the growing rôle of English in their daily life. Some are indifferent, even favourable, to its diffusion in France and in French-speaking countries, while others are deeply worried.</p> <p><a href="#">Lire la suite</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Eurostat Communiqué of 1 février 2016 on foreign languages : le décrochage !</b></p> <p>"Learning foreign languages : 60% of the pupils in the first years of secondary school were learning more than one foreign language in 2014. French second after English. The learning of a foreign language at school is very frequent in the European Union (EU), since some 18 millions pupils in the first years of secondary school (98,6% of all the pupils at this level) were learning at least one foreign language in 2014. Among them, some 11 millions (59,9%) were learning two foreign languages or more.</p>

	<p><a href="#">Pour en savoir plus</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Superclass by David Rothkopf – Two missing paragraphs, a manipulated translation?</b></p> <p>David Rothkopf was the last director of the consulting firm created by Henry Kissinger, Kissinger Associates. He worked for the Commerce Department under the presidency of Bill Clinton. He is a member of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a research institute based in Washington.</p> <p>In 2008, he published the book <i>Superclass</i>, translated in French by the publishers Robert Laffont under the title <i>La Caste</i>.</p> <p>The French version has been deprived of two paragraphs that are essential to the comprehension of the book and the text on the back cover is a dreamlike version of the original text which was actually an alert sent to the western world in the face of the dramatic aggravation of inequalities.</p> <p><a href="#">Lire la suite</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>La stratégie langues vivantes de Najat Vallaud-Belkacem : esprit critique ! (article actualisé au 14 février 2016)</b></p> <p>Lorsque la ministre avait annoncé au printemps dernier sa volonté d'engager la diversification des enseignements de langues vivantes dès l'école primaire, en même temps que le démantèlement des classes bilingues, faisant peser sur les langues autres que l'anglais, l'allemand en premier, une menace redoutable, l'OEP a choisi de prendre la ministre aux mots.</p> <p><a href="#">Lire la suite</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>L'Algeria riconosce il berbero come seconda lingua ufficiale</b></p> <p>Il Parlamento algerino ha approvato a larga maggioranza un pacchetto di misure costituzionali che include il riconoscimento della lingua berbera o tamazight come seconda lingua ufficiale insieme all'arabo. Secondo quanto riferisce l'agenzia francese AFP l'arabo resterà ancora la "lingua nazionale e ufficiale" e la "lingua ufficiale dello stato". Il tamazight nelle sue quattro varianti è parlato...</p> <p><a href="#">Leggi tutto...</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Per ascoltare: Il plurilinguismo in Svizzera, l'italiano una delle lingue nazionali (intervista a Dino Balestra)</b></p> <p>Il plurilinguismo sul territorio ovviamente non è solamente un fenomeno istriano. In Europa esistono tantissime realtà simili, e in Svizzera è pressoché impensabile che una persona parli solo una lingua.</p> <p>Da quelle parti è il tedesco che tende a imporsi, in virtù della forza economica e politica della Germania. L'italiano è comunque una delle lingue nazionali. Questo il tema dell'intervista a <b>Dino Balestra</b>, presidente della Comunità Radiotelevisiva Italofona ed ex direttore della Radiotelevisione Svizzera Italiana.</p> <p><a href="#">Per ascoltare, fai clic qui...&gt;&gt;&gt;</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>French Immersion growth causing pain for Ontario boards</b></p> <p>By: Kristin Rushowy Education Reporter, Published on Sun Nov 22 2015</p> <p>High demand and shortage of teachers force boards to consider changes to the optional program.</p> <p>Too many students. Not enough teachers.</p> <p>Struggling to keep up with demand for French Immersion, and how to ensure equal opportunity to its benefits, some Ontario school boards are considering caps on enrolment for the popular program or delaying its start. Others, such as the Peel District School Board, have taken a hard stand and put a 25 per cent cap in place.</p> <p><a href="#">More</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Migrants &amp; Language(s) - London 21-21 March 2016</b></p> <p>The current migration crisis faces the UK and other countries with urgent issues</p>

within which language plays a significant role. These include for example: decisions about who gets refugee status, which depend partly on origin and may be determined on linguistic grounds; how to integrate migrant children in schools, and adults in employment, when they do not speak the host-country language well (or at all); how they are to communicate in hospitals, banks, with landlords and administrations. Less immediately obvious, but equally significant linguistic issues include:

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## Announcements and publications

**The OEP needs volunteer translators in Spanish, Greek, Italian, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese and Romanian**  
Please write to [contact@observatoireplurilinguisme.eu](mailto:contact@observatoireplurilinguisme.eu)



Communiqué

### Launching of a competition of postal art « BORDER »

As part of the **4<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Plurilingualism** a competition of postal art is organised in link with the general theme of the Conference : « Plurilingualisme and creativity : languages, heart of d'Europe ». The theme will be the « Border ».

The border is a subject that affects us all. Especially today, with globalisation, some believe that borders should be abolished while others think that they should be closed. It is not that simple.

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**The French language and Francophonie Week** will take place from 2 to 20 March 2016. This Week will be an opportunity to celebrate the French language with many activities organised everywhere in France and abroad.

The French language and Francophonie Week was created in 1995 by the Ministry for Culture and Communication. It is organised every year around 20 March, the international day of Francophonie.

[Pour en savoir plus](#)



### Séminaire Paris Denis Diderot/OEP




#### "Politiques linguistiques et plurilinguisme" (2015-2016)



**4 mars 2016 : Adriana Stoichitoiu Ichim (Université de Bucarest) : La politique des langues étrangères au sein du système éducatif roumain**

- 11 mars 2016 : Adriana Stoichitoiu Ichim (Université de Bucarest) : L'impact de l'adhésion à l'UE sur l'onomatistique commerciale roumaine
- 18 mars 2016 : Denis Costaouec (Université Sorbonne-Descartes – Paris 5) : La presse régionale et la question linguistique en Bretagne
- 1er avril 2016 : José Ramírez (Université Paris Diderot – Paris 7) : Tensions normatives dans l'enseignement de l'espagnol au Brésil
- 13 mai 2016 : Shahzaman Haque (INALCO) : Politique linguistique familiale : une étude monographique des familles indiennes immigrantes en Europe

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Idéologie et traductologie (dir. Astrid Guillaume)</b>          Sous la direction d'Astrid Guillaume          Préfaces de Marianne Lederer et François Rastier</p> <p>En théorie, la traduction est censée être neutre et le traducteur indépendant. Mais en pratique, c'est loin d'être le cas. Cet ouvrage présente le regard croisé de onze chercheurs issus de langues aussi diverses que l'arabe, le bulgare, l'espagnol, le grec, l'italien, le japonais, le polonais, le russe ou encore le turc. Il réunit des études de cas relevant de contextes de communication variés, mais qui révèlent tous les multiples interactions de la traductologie et de l'idéologie.</p> <p><a href="#">Pour en savoir plus</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Le n°35 du Courriel européen des langues vient de paraître.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Il est consultable <a href="#">ICI...&gt;&gt;&gt;</a></p> <p>Au sommaire de ce numéro, vous trouverez une présentation du nouveau programme 2016-2019 par Sarah Breslin, directrice exécutive du CELV. D'autres rubriques apportent des informations sur les participations françaises aux ateliers du CELV et sur un programme européen ainsi qu'une sélection de publications, ressources pédagogiques et annonces de colloques...</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Blanchet, Philippe, 2016, Discriminations : Combattre la glottophobie, Paris, Textuel, 192 p.</b></p> <p>Le premier livre à dénoncer la glottophobie, discrimination par le langage.</p> <p>Le langage est dans notre société un instrument de pouvoir puissant et méconnu : accents et tournures langagières sont les cibles d'une discrimination généralisée, appelée glottophobie. Rejeter une personne pour sa façon de parler, c'est la même chose que la rejeter pour sa religion, la couleur de sa peau ou son orientation sexuelle, autant de discriminations punies par la loi en France.</p> <p><a href="#">Pour en savoir plus</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Numéro 3-4/2015 de la revue Cosmopolis</b>          A Review of Cosmopolitics - Revue de cosmopolitique          2015/3-4          Spirituality, religion and politics - Spiritualité, religion et politique          Sommaire/Contents          Editorial          Dominique de Courcelles et Paul Ghils          Introduction Religion et politique pour un « autre humanisme »          Dominique de Courcelles          Des conditions de la tolérance, Abdelhai Azarkan          Le temps du confessionnalisme sémantique, Mathieu Guidère</p> <p><a href="#">Pour en savoir plus</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wikipedia voor taalprofessionals (workshop)</b></p> <p>Hoe werkt Wikipedia achter de schermen? Hoe kun je een artikel bewerken en zelf een pagina toevoegen? Hoe kun je als taalprofessional op Wikipedia waarde creëren voor de community ... en voor jezelf? Dat pakken we aan in een hands-on workshop op donderdag 9 juni 2016 in Gent.</p> <p>In deze zeer praktische workshop krijg je een kijkje achter de schermen bij Wikipedia en leer je concreet hoe je een artikel kunt bewerken, zelf een pagina kunt toevoegen en hoe je als taalprofessional op Wikipedia waarde kunt creëren voor de community en voor jezelf.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>II Congreso Latinoamericano de Glotopolítica</b></p> <p>El I Congreso Latinoamericano de Glotopolítica, celebrado en la Universidad de Chile en agosto de 2015, inauguró un foro donde investigadores y pensadores que</p>

	<p>tienen como objeto de estudio y reflexión las dimensiones políticas del lenguaje puedan compartir y contrastar modelos teóricos, metodologías y experiencias institucionales.</p> <p>En el II Congreso nos proponemos dar continuidad a esta zona disciplinaria que identificamos con el término “glotopolítica”. Lejos de ortodoxias teóricas y metodológicas, reconocemos la heterogeneidad de los modelos de articulación del lenguaje y lo político y la necesaria amplitud del marco de conceptualización de los procesos sociales sobre los que proyectamos nuestra acción crítica.</p> <p><b>Información en la web de Infoling:</b>  <a href="http://www.infoling.org/informacion/C1034.html">http://www.infoling.org/informacion/C1034.html</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Les annales de droits linguistiques - 2015</b></p> <p>La majorité des textes qui sont écrits sur les droits linguistiques au Canada sont publiés à différents endroits. Certes, la <i>Revue de droit linguistique</i> aidera à rassembler en un seul endroit la littérature à ce sujet. Qu'à cela ne tienne, les articles académiques sont également publiés dans des revues à vocation générale; les ouvrages sont publiés par diverses maisons d'éditions, sans que la publicité apparaisse à un seul endroit; les décisions des tribunaux sont également publiées dans des recueils à vocation général puisqu'il n'existe aucun recueil thématique au sujet des droits linguistiques.</p> <p>Il nous semblait essentiel de rassembler en un seul endroit l'information au sujet des publications en droits linguistiques. Les <i>annales de droits linguistiques</i> recensent donc les décisions des tribunaux, les ouvrages, les articles de périodiques, les modifications législatives qui portent sur les droits linguistiques au Canada, les rapports des Commissaires linguistiques et autres études ou rapports sur le sujet.</p> <p>Il convient de noter que, malgré tous les efforts que nous avons déployés, cette liste peut ne pas être exhaustive.</p> <p>Voici <i>Les annales de droits linguistiques - 2015</i>, lesquels sont également disponibles sur notre site Web en format <a href="#">pdf</a> et en format <a href="#">html</a>.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>La creatividad léxica en el lenguaje de la publicidad</b></p> <p>El estudio de la neología léxica, tanto desde el punto de vista teórico como, sobre todo, el aplicado, ha sido objeto de gran atención en los últimos años; sin embargo, pocas han sido las investigaciones que se han centrado en el ámbito de la publicidad, a pesar de ser este un campo de interés y con una relevancia cada vez mayor. En efecto, el creciente atractivo que ha despertado la publicidad ha ocasionado en los últimos años la aparición de una gran cantidad de obras enfocadas al estudio de la lengua empleada en la misma en sus diferentes niveles de análisis, si bien observamos que, cuando se trata el tema de la creación de palabras, la mayoría de las veces se centran en la formación de léxica en sentido estricto, es decir, atendiendo exclusivamente a los procedimientos de los que dispone una lengua para crear nuevas palabras solo a partir de unidades lingüísticas preexistentes en su sistema lingüístico, por lo que solo incluyen en ella los mecanismos de la derivación, composición y parasíntesis.</p> <p><b>Información en la web de Infoling:</b>  <a href="http://www.infoling.org/informacion/T170.html">http://www.infoling.org/informacion/T170.html</a></p>
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